Water for paddy crops

†3017. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an acute shortage of water and electricity this year which has affected the farmers of Haryana;

(b) the measures taken by Government to provide adequate quantum of water for paddy crops;

(c) the quantum of electricity supplied to the farmers of Haryana; and

(d) the measures being taken by Government to accelerate water flow in the canals of Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) There has been shortage of water in June and July, 2009 due to scanty rainfall. Also there is an overall shortage of power in the country in all the States including Haryana both in terms of energy and peaking power.

(b) Water being a state subject, the responsibility of planning, development, funding, execution and management of all type of water resources projects to harness and manage the water resources within the States rests with the concerned State Governments. The Government of Haryana has taken measures to operate the channels of Western Yamuna Canal System in 5 Groups instead of 4 Groups last year to provide adequate water for paddy crops.

(c) Electricity is a concurrent subject. The distribution and supply of power in the State to various categories of consumers including agriculture come under the purview of State Government/State Power Utilities. The Central Government may supplement the efforts of the State Government by setting up generating stations through Central Public Sector Undertakings. In view of the dry weather and prevailing shortage of power in Haryana, additional assistance of 50 MW from the Central Generating Stations was given to Haryana on 9th July, 2009 which was subsequently enhanced to 100 MW *w.e.f* 15th July, 2009. Presently Haryana has about 1418 MW allocation from the Central Generating stations.

(d) Haryana Irrigation Department is in constant touch with Bhakra-Beas Management Board Authorities to get maximum water supply during this period. All the channels have been got cleared to accelerate water flow in the canal system of Haryana.

Irrigation projects for Andhra Pradesh

3018. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh proposed to Centre to take up certain irrigation projects in State as national projects;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) the policy of Centre in such matters;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the possibility of accepting State's request; and

(e) by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (e) The Union Government on 7th February, 2008 declared 14 projects as national projects. Thereafter, the Ministry of Water Resources on 26th February, 2009 issued guidelines for implementation of scheme of national projects *inter-alia* containing procedure to be followed for inclusion of a new project (apart from 14 projects already declared as national projects) in the list of national projects. In accordance with the procedure prescribed in the guidelines for implementation of the scheme of national projects, proposal for inclusion of Polavaram project in the list of national projects have been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. A new project to be included in the list of 14 already declared national project requires clearance from Expenditure Finance Committee/Project Investment Board, High Powered Steering Committee of Ministry of Water Resources for implementation of National Projects and finally by the Union Cabinet.

Ministry of Water Resources takes action on such proposals as per guidelines for implementation of scheme of national projects and no definite time frame could be fixed on the issue.

Policy on use of underground water

†3019. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any national policy regarding use of underground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government is going to formulate any national policy in this regard; and

(d) whether Government is considering private partnership in underground water right?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Ministry of Water Resources has not formulated any specific National Policy regarding use of underground water. However, issues relating to ground water are duly addressed in the National Water Policy. Relevant paras from National Water Policy are as under:—

- There should be a periodical reassessment of the ground water potential on a scientific basis, taking into consideration the quality of the water available and economic viability of its extraction.
- Exploitation of ground water resources should be so regulated as not to exceed the recharging possibilities, as also to ensure social equity. The detrimental environmental consequences of over-exploitation of ground water need to be effectively prevented by the Central and State Governments.
- Integrated and coordination development of surface water and ground water